

P a t e n t   c l a i m s :  
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1. An optical element (1; 11; 21; 31; 41; 51; 61; 71; 81) in the form of an at  
5 least partially transparent face that comprises both transparent areas and  
essentially non-transparent areas,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d    in that
- the transparent areas are arranged sufficiently close to each other for  
the individual, intermediate, essentially non-transparent areas to be  
10 essentially invisible to the naked eye, at least when the element is  
viewed from a given distance that corresponds, however, at most to  
distances within an indoor-facility; and
  - the essentially non-transparent areas are arranged sufficiently close to  
each other and have a sufficient extent at right angles to the face for  
15 the intermediate, transparent areas to have a depth/width ratio that  
causes the optical element to allow, at a given point on the face, pas-  
sage of light with given angles of incidence, while light having other  
angles of incidence are unable to pass through the optical element at  
the point in question.
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2. An optical element according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d  
in that said essentially, non-transparent areas constitute a continuous face,  
such that the transparent areas appear as openings (2; 12, 13) in this face.
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3. An optical element according to claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i s e d  
in that said openings are elongate, whereby they have, in a given direction in  
the plane of the face, an extent that considerably exceeds the extent in a di-  
rection at right angles thereto in the plane of the face.
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4. An optical element according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d  
in that said transparent areas constitute a continuous face, such that the es-  
sentially non-transparent areas appear as islands (22) in this face.

5. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 4, characterised in that the transparent areas and the essentially non-transparent areas are arranged in a mutually regular pattern.

5 6. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 5, characterised in that the individual transparent areas have, at least in one direction in the plane of the face, an extent that is as a maximum ten times the extent of the essentially non-transparent areas at right angles to the face.

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7. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 6, characterised in that the transparent areas are arranged such that the individual, intermediate, essentially non-transparent areas have an extent that is, at least in one direction in the plane of the face, less than 10 mm.

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8. An optical element according to claim 7, characterised in that the transparent areas are arranged such that the individual, intermediate, non-transparent areas have an extent that is, at least in one direction in the plane of the face, smaller than 1 mm.

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9. An optical element according to claim 8, characterised in that the transparent areas are arranged such that the individual, intermediate, essentially non-transparent areas have an extent that, at least in one direction in the plane of the face, is less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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10. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 9, characterised in that the essentially non-transparent areas consist of a material with a low reflectivity, such that light is only to a limited extent reflected from the surfaces of the essentially, non-transparent areas.

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11. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 10, characterised in that it is configured as a film that

can be attached to a surface on another, at least partially transparent optical element.

12. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 10,  
5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that it is configured as an integral part of a pane.

13. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 12,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that at least a part of the essentially non-  
10 transparent areas are configured for functioning as electrode (67; 76) in a solar cell (61; 71).

14. An optical element according to claim 13, c h a r a c t e r -  
i s e d in that said solar cell (61; 71) is a photo-electro-chemical solar  
15 cell.

15. An optical element according to claim 14, c h a r a c t e r -  
i s e d in that the essentially, non-transparent areas comprise a semi-  
conductor, on which a suitable dye is adsorbed, and are configured for func-  
20 tioning as photo-electrode (67).

16. An optical element according to claim 14, c h a r a c t e r -  
i s e d in that the essentially non-transparent areas comprise electrically  
conductive particulate material and are configured for functioning as a  
25 counter electrode (76).

17. An optical element according to any one of claims 1 through 12,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the essentially, non-transparent ar-  
eas comprise surfaces (86) that are configured as solar cells.  
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18. An optical element according to claim 17, c h a r a c t e r -  
i s e d in that said solar cells (86) are configured as thin-film solar cells.